

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 01290 210903Z

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ACTION EUR-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8782

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PASS EXIM FOR SAUER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, EGEN, YO

SUBJECT: EXIMBANK: VISIT OF RAYMOND J. ALBRIGHT

REFS: A. STATE 44702

B. STATE 47900

C. BELGRADE 1062

D. BELGRADE 1091

E. SAUER LETTERS TO SMOLE AND AMBASSADOR

F. ALBRIGHT LETTER TO AMBASSADOR

1. WE ARE IN PROCESS OF ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS SUGGESTED IN ALBRIGHT LETTER AND ADDITIONAL USEFUL CONTACTS. YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS, BANKERS AND BUSINESS EXECUTIVES PLEASED AT PROSPECT OF REUNION WITH VALUED OLD COLLEAGUE. WE HAVE ALREADY BRIEFED YUGOSLAVS IN GENERAL ON SUBJECT MATTER ALBRIGHT WILL WISH TO DISCUSS AND THEIR PREPARATIONS ARE GOING AHEAD SATISFACTORILY.

2. IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT FINANCE SECRETARIAT AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE FULLY READY FOR VISIT, I INTEND TO CALL SOONEST ON SMOLE - JUST RETURNED FROM KUWAIT AND LIBYA.

3. I PLAN TO OUTLINE OBJECTIVES OF VISIT, EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE, DELIVER LIST OF SPECIFIC TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, AND REFER TO NEED EXIM CURRENTLY FACES (IN LIGHT OF ITS LIMITED RESOURCES AND DISTURBED INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY SITUATION) TO RE-EXAMINE LEADING PRIORITIES.

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4. ON OTHER HAND UNLESS ESSENTIAL FOR EX-IM PURPOSES I WOULD PREFER NOT RPT NOT DELIVER YOUR MARCH 8 LETTER AT THIS TIME FOR FOLLOWING REASONS;

5. LETTER FORESEEING SCALED-DOWN EXIM ROLE IN YUGOSLAVIA, CLOSELY FOLLOWING UPON RECENTLY ANNOUNCED TEMPORARY HALT ON ALL PROCESSING OF EXIM CREDITS FOR THIS COUNTRY, IT LIKELY TO HAVE DISTINCTLY NEGATIVE IMPACT.

6. YUGOSLAVS MAY WELL LINK THESE MOVES TO DIFFICULTIES IN OUR POLITICAL RELATIONS WHICH DEVELOPED LAST FALL, AND WHICH WE ARE NOW SEEKING TO OVERCOME.

7. THEY ARE LIKELY TO FEEL THAT ANY PROSPECTS FOR BASIC CHANGE IN PROGRAM ON WHICH THEY HAVE COUNTED VERY HEAVILY AND WHICH WE HAVE EMPHASIZED IN NUMEROUS HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS SHOULD FIRST BE EXPLORED WITH THEM INFORMALLY AND IN DEPTH, BEFORE CONCLUSIONS (CONTAINED IN LETTER) AS TO SLOWER PACE IN PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS ARE REACHED. ALBRIGHT VISIT WILL PROVIDE SUITABLE OCCASION FOR FULL EXPLORATION OF CURRENT EXIM PROBLEMS AND RELEVANT YUGOSLAV FACTORS, SUCH AS BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND EXTERNAL DEBT TRENDS.

8. IN ANY CASE I AM CONFIDENT THAT MY DISCUSSION WITH SMOLE PLUS OTHER PREPARATIONS WE ARE MAKING WILL RESULT IN SUCCESSFUL AND PRODUCTIVE ALBRIGHT VISIT, FULLY MEETING THE PURPOSES WHICH WE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON AND WHICH YOU HAVE STATED AGAIN IN YOUR LETTERS.

TOON

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